

CLAIMS

1. An implant, in particular an intervertebral implant, comprising:

(A) two articulating parts (4; 5) each having a central axis (1; 26), each having a slide surface (6; 7) intersecting the central axes (1; 26) and each having an outermost end (14; 15) which can be connected to a bone, where

(B) the slide surfaces (6; 7) are curved, characterized in that

(C) the slide surfaces are mutually displaceable, and

(D) the second slide surface (5) is rotatable relative to the first articulating part (4) about skewed axes of rotation (10; 11

2. Implant as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6; 7) are saddle-shaped.

3. Implant as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) cross each other at an angle between 80 and 100°.

4. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the axes of rotation (10; 11) are a minimum distance A apart that is between 0.1 and 20 mm.

5. Implant as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the distance A is between 2 and 20 mm.

6. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in the slide surfaces (6; 7) each comprise a saddle-point (8; 9) where, when the second articulating part (5) is rotated about each of the axes of rotation (10; 11), the second saddle point (9) moves along an arc of circle (12; 14) concentric with the particular axis of rotation (10; 11).

7. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the slide surfaces (6; 7) are congruent in the initial position at coaxial central axes (1; 26) of the articulating parts (4; 5).

8. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the outermost ends (14; 15) of the articulating parts (4; 5) each are fitted with a connection element (2; 3).

9. Implant as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the connection elements (2; 3) are designed as cover plates (12; 13) each having an axially outermost surface (16; 17) configured transversely to the central axes (1; 26).

10. Implant as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that one of the cover plates (12; 13) is integral with the adjoining articulating part (5).

11. Implant as claimed in one of claims 9 or 10, characterized in that one of the cover plates (12) comprises a guide (20) perpendicular to the central axis (1) and in that the adjoining articulating part (4) is fitted with a rear end (14) that may be inserted into the guide (20).

12. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 11, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be rotated about its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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13. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 12, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be displaced along a displacement axis (40) perpendicular to said articulating part's central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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14. Implant as claimed in one of claims 8 through 13, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) may be displaced in a plane perpendicular to its central axis (1; 26) in order to be assembled to the associated connection element (2; 3).

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15. Implant as claimed in one of claims 12 through 14, characterized in that a connection element (2; 3) is fitted with a recess (37) that is coaxial with the central axis (1; 26) and that receives the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjoining articulating part (4; 5).

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16. Implant as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the recess (37) comprises an axially terminal cavity (39) and in that the outermost end (14; 15) of the adjoining articulating part (4; 5) is fitted with a widening (38) coaxial with the central axis (1; 26), said widening being insertable in the cavity (39).

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17. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 16, characterized in that one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of plastic.

18. Implant as claimed in one of claims 1 through 17, characterized in that at
5 least one of the articulating parts (4; 5) is made of ceramic.